

INDIAN COUNTRY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM 1-26-07

SB-173

**Background:**

Indian Country Economic Development (ICED) funds from the Montana Department of Commerce have been available to tribal governments since 2005. These funds are available to support tribal business development projects, workforce training projects, entrepreneurial training, feasibility studies, and other types of economic development projects. In FY 2006 the State-Tribal Economic Development Commission increased each award by \$5,000 to a total of \$55,000 per tribe.

TRIBE	PROJECT	STATUS	POTENTIAL JOBS CREATED									
Salish Kootenai	Support an equipment purchase at tribally-owned Plant	• Completed	23									
Little Shell Tribe of the Chippewa Indians	Support the leverage of further funds, as well as a feasibility study and the creation of a business plan for a tribal capital and visitor center	• In process	10									
Chippewa Cree	Complete a marketing study for an ethanol and ethanol by-products plant	• Marketing study complete • Design-build phase in process	43									
Assiniboine Gros Ventre	Support the tribally-owned Meat Packing, Inc.	• Completed	8									
Assiniboine Sioux	Development of a tribally-owned manufacturing and information technology services network holding company	• Completed	100									
Apsaalooke	Establishment of a revolving loan fund (RLF) for enrolled tribal members	• In process	10									
Northern Cheyenne	Complete a telecommunications study identifying potential tribal ownership opportunities and service improvements	• Project study complete • Licensing in process	5									
Blackfeet	Tribal Manpower Program, provides staff support and services to expand firefighter training to include FEMA disaster training	• Completed	500									
<table><tr><td><b>ECONOMIC BENEFIT:</b></td><td>State Funds*</td><td>\$440,000</td></tr><tr><td></td><td><u>Match Funds</u></td><td><u>\$1,105,519</u></td></tr><tr><td></td><td><u>Total Funds</u></td><td><u>\$1,545,519</u></td></tr></table>				<b>ECONOMIC BENEFIT:</b>	State Funds*	\$440,000		<u>Match Funds</u>	<u>\$1,105,519</u>		<u>Total Funds</u>	<u>\$1,545,519</u>
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* \$55,000 / tribe												

In addition to the individual tribal projects listed above, the Department of Commerce in partnership with the State-Tribal Economic Development Commission is funding and supporting both training and financing of private sector Indian-owned business in Montana in 2006 and 2007 including:

- Funding for **entrepreneurship training** on each of Montana's Indian Reservations and with the Little Shell Tribe to develop a larger, more viable, private business sector in Indian Country.
- Through the creation of the **Indianpreneur Fund**, the Department of Commerce and the State-Tribal Economic Development Commission will support the creation of private sector business in Indian Country by investing start-up and expansion funds matched by the owner and private sector lenders.
- STEDC contracted with the University of Montana to analyze and document the economic contribution provided by Montana Indian Tribes to the State of Montana's economy.
- STEDC conducting a comprehensive assessment of the economic needs and priorities of each reservation